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BT

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 09402

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PGDV, HO

SUBJECT: MAJOR RICARDO ZUNIGA: CALL BY POSSIBLE

- CONGRESSIONAL STAFFERS AT ESTADO MAYOR ON HIS
- BEHALF

1. (C) ENTIRE TEXT.

2. A SENIOR MEMBER OF THE HONDURAN GENERAL STAFF TOLD AN EMBOFF THAT TWO AMERICAN CITIZENS, **BRUCE CAMERON AND WILL WOODWARD**, REPRESENTING THEMSELVES AS STAFF MEMBERS OF THE DEMOCRATIC SIDE OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, HAD VISITED GENERAL WALTER LOPEZ REYES ON BEHALF OF MAJOR **RICARDO ZUNIGA**. THE TWO EXPLAINED THAT THEY WERE PERSONAL FRIENDS OF MAJOR ZUNIGA, WHO THEY KNEW WAS CURRENTLY CONFINED TO QUARTERS, AND HAD COME TO EXPLAIN TO GENERAL LOPEZ THE NATURE OF HIS ACTIVITIES WHILE HE WAS LAST IN WASHINGTON. THEY SAID THAT MAJOR ZUNIGA HAD BEEN INVITED TO AND PARTICIPATED IN THE RECENT CARNEGIE FOUNDATION SEMINAR ON CENTRAL AMERICA. THEY EXPLAINED THAT ZUNIGA HAD ONLY SPOKEN IN GENERAL TERMS ABOUT THE CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION IN HONDURAS.

3. GENERAL LOPEZ AND THE OTHER OFFICERS PRESENT POINTED OUT THAT IT WAS NOT MAJOR ZUNIGA'S PLACE TO SPEAK ABOUT POLITICS. THE HONDURAN ARMCD FORCES HAD BEEN MAKING AN EFFORT TO BECOME A PROFESSIONAL MILITARY ORGANIZATION AND GET OUT OF POLITICS. THE GROUP SHOULD HAVE INVITED A HONDURAN POLITICIAN TO SPEAK ON THESE MATTERS, AND MAJOR ZUNIGA SHOULD HAVE CONFINED HIS COMMENTS TO STRICTLY MILITARY AFFAIRS.

4. A SECOND EMBASSY CONTACT HAS REPORTED THAT MAJOR ZUNIGA CALLED A CONGRESSIONAL STAFFER NAMED CAMERON AND REQUESTED THAT HE TRAVEL TO HONDURAS AND INTERCEDE ON ZUNIGA'S BEHALF.

5. COMMENT: THE EMBASSY HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO VERIFY CAMERON AND WOODWARD'S POSITIONS FROM THE MOST RECENT CONGRESSIONAL DIRECTORY. NEITHER CAMERON NOR WOODWARD MADE CONTACT WITH ANY MEMBER OF THE U.S. EMBASSY WHILE IN TEGUCIGALPA. NEGROPONTE
END OF MESSAGE

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